

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-07 EUR-12

NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UN, GW

SUBJ: AD HOC COMMITTEE ON TAKING OF HOSTAGES

SUMMARY: AT AUGUST 3 MEETING, COMMITTEE ELECTED FOUR MEMBERS OF BUREAU, ESTABLISHED ORDER OF WORK, AND HEARD FRG BEGIN THE GENERAL DEBATE. END SUMMARY.

1. COMMITTEE ELECTED BY CONSENSUS AND WITHOUT DEBATE ALL MEMBERS OF THE BUREAU EXCEPT RAPPORTEUR. ELECTED WERE AMB. HARRIMAN (NIGERIA) AS CHAIRMAN, AND IRAN, FRG AND NICARAGUA AS VICE-CHAIRMAN. RAPPORTEUR POSITION REMAINS UNFILLED BECAUSE EE'S HAVE INDICATED THAT THEY DO NOT DESIRE THE POST.

2. HARRIMAN EMERGED AS CHAIRMAN BECAUSE OF AFRICAN OPPOSITION TO CANDIDACY OF NICARAGUA. WEO'S DECIDED TO ACCEPT HARRIMAN BECAUSE OF INABILITY TO PREVENT HIS ELECTION WITHOUT UNDULY DELAYING WORK OF COMMITTEE AND IN RETURN FOR SUPPORT FOR FRG AS VICE-CHAIRMAN.

3. RAPPORTEUR WILL BE ELECTED IN NEAR FUTURE.

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4. AFTER ELECTION OF BUREAU, COMMITTEE CONSIDERED ORGANIZATION OF WORK. TANZANIA INDICATED THE NEED FOR A GENERAL DEBATE IN ORDER TO LAY GROUNDWORK FOR ANY DISCUSSION OF DRAFT CONVENTIONS OR PROPOSALS. UK, US AND CANADA, SHILE NOT OPPOSING GENERAL DEBATE, SAID IT LARGELY UNNECESSARY IN LIGHT OF DEBATE ALREADY HELD IN UNGA AND AT THE LEAST ITS LENGTH SHOULD BE

LIMITED SO THAT SUFFICIENT TIME WOULD REMAIN FOR
CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS. ALGERIA, LIBYA AND DEMOCRATIC
YEMEN ADVOCATED OPEN ENDED GENERAL DEBATE. COMPROMISE,
SUGGESTED BY HARRIMAN AND ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS, WAS TO
ALLOW UNTIL AUG. 10 FOR GENERAL DEBATE, IF NEEDED, AND
THEN TO CONSIDER PROPOSALS AND WORK ON DRAFTING A CONVENTION.

5. FRG WAS OPENING AND ONLY SPEAKER IN GENERAL DEBATE
TODAY. AMB. VON WECHMAR SAID THAT TAKING OF HOSTAGES WAS
A DOUBLE CRIME, SINCE AFFECTED THE HUMAN LIFE BEING HELD AND
ALSO THE SOVEREIGNTY OF A STAT. SAID THAT THE VICTIMS WERE
USUALLY HELPLESS AND DEFENSELESS AND OFTEN UNRELATED TO
THE DEMANDS OF THE CRIMINALS. NOTED THAT THE GENEVA
CONVENTION BANS THE TAKING OF HOSTAGES DURING WAR
AND CALLED FOR EQUAL PROTECTION DURING PEACETIME. SAID
THAT THE CHARTER AND THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN
RIGHTS RECOGNIZED THE RIGHT OF LIFE, LIBERTY AND SECURITY OF PERSON.
SAID THAT WHILE SEVERAL CONVENTIONS EXISTED TO FACILITATE
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THIS AREA, SUCH AS THE HAGUE,
MONTREAL AND TOKYO CONVENTIONS AND THE PROTECTION OF
DIPLOMATS CONVENTION, GAPS REMAINED. REFERRED TO
THEIR OWN DRAFT AND EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS
EACH OF THE PROVISIONS, SINCE HISTORY HAD SHOWN THAT A
TRUE CONSENSUS ON THE CONVENTION WOULD BE NEEDED IF IT
WERE TO BE EFFECTIVE.

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Message Attributes

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